

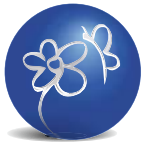


Upcoming Trainings



Note from President and CEO	2
ACSRN News	3
Member News	4
Feature Article	5
Best Practice	6

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Note from the President & CEO Habiba Al Mar'ashi

Dear members, friends
and well-wishers,

I take this opportunity to wish
you all a blessed Eid al-Adha and my
warm wishes for a wonderful celebrations ahead!

My heartfelt welcome to all of you who have taken out your precious time to go through this July edition of our informative newsletter. Honestly, nothing gives me more joy at the beginning of every month than to share with you a nice summary of our endeavours. Thank you for your continuous encouragement and support in our journey.

To begin with, it wouldn't appear surprising to you if I mention that June was one of the most engaged months of the year for the team from the context of Arabia CSR Awards. Since 30th June was the due date to submit applications for the 16th Cycle of the Awards, the team was immensely occupied in handling applicant questions, guiding them through the process and delivering a final push of new invitations to maximise registrations for this cycle. It was indeed impressive to witness the quality of in-depth questions received from applicants, simply acting as a testament to their sincerity and willingness in furnishing outstanding applications. Undoubtedly, the jury must remain prepared to face strong dilemmas while selecting winners. It's not going to be easy at all!

The month of June also observed a superb session of 'Sustainability Reporting Online Training'. The well-structured two-day course upskilled participants with a highly-demanded style of reporting on par with internationally recognised standards. The Network feels pride and excitement for the upcoming array of targeted training and workshop programmes in the coming months that will equip numerous professionals across the Arab region. For more information on these initiatives, please reach out to us at trainings@arabiaccsrnetwork.com.

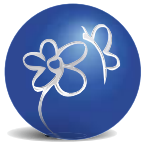
Moving on, the Network joined its environmental partner; The Emirates Environmental Group in conducting the year's 2nd panel discussion. The objective of the discourse was to illuminate an often-sidelined or underrepresented subject in the climate-focused sustainability debates. The topic was "Assembling a New Theory of Change: Determining the Interlink between Poverty, Hunger & Health." Experiencing the articulated presentations and speeches of the venerated panellists conjoined with the profound and well-researched questions of the participants was nothing short of magnificence.

Inspired by the invigorating ambience of our 2nd panel discussion, I eagerly anticipate the forthcoming discussion on 23rd August, centred on the theme "Decreasing Wildlife Population, Increasing Human Population: Striking a Balance in Natural Biodiversity." I extend a warm invitation to all our network members to join us as esteemed speakers and participants. For information, please reach out to us at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com.

I wish to bring your attention also to the eagerly anticipated and grandiose two-day gathering of CSR and sustainability in the Arab world - the "Arabia CSR Forum," scheduled to take place on 3rd and 4th October in Dubai. Our team has been diligently working to elevate the calibre of discussions at this forum and amplify its reach to stupendous heights. For details and early-bird registrations, please visit www.arabiaccsrnetwork.com/forum.

In conclusion, I take great delight in reminding our esteemed readers that should your organisation seek knowledge assistance in crafting impactful sustainability and CSR strategies, managing environmental impact or validating existing CSR policies or designing customised sustainability-oriented training programmes, we stand ready to lend our support. Simply reach out to us via email at admin@arabiaccsrnetwork.com and we will be at your service. Undeniably, Collaboration Forges the Path to a Flourishing Tomorrow!





ACSRN News

Training in June

Arabia CSR Network holds firm in its conviction to transform the landscape of sustainability reporting through its influential training initiatives. By acknowledging the lack of essential skills needed for proficient reporting, the network equips professionals with the indispensable knowledge to harmonise with the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals.

The recent concluded online training on Sustainability Reporting, which took place on **20th & 21st June**, utilised an interactive structure that actively prompted participants to delve into exemplary methodologies and partake in hands-on exercises. The session helped instill in attendees the ability to surpass expectations in their reporting prowess.

Participants attained an extensive breadth of knowledge, debunked fallacies and procured a profound comprehension of the organisational benefits intertwined with sustainable practices. The course encompassed pivotal components such as strategic formulation, stakeholder involvement, diligent monitoring and meticulous reporting, placing a significant emphasis on the interconnectedness with SDGs.

Click to surf our trainings and workshops calendar for this year: [Training Calendar](#)

2nd Panel Discussion - Assembling a New Theory of Change: Determining the Interlink between Poverty, Hunger & Health

ACSRN joined EEG in conducting the 2nd Panel Discussion of the year on **23rd June** hosted by Hotel Holiday Inn Barsha. The content-rich hybrid discourse was held under the theme **"Assembling a New Theory of Change: Determining the Interlink between Poverty, Hunger & Health."** The session explored the intricate relationship among the three and their cumulative impact on global environmental health.

President & CEO of ACSRN in her opening speech presented alarming statistics on extreme poverty and hunger citing data from international bodies like the World Bank and the World Food Programme. She solemnly acknowledged the intertwined nature of these maladies and urged for collaborative actions to tackle them head-on.

The discourse featured four distinguished panellists, each bringing a unique wealth of experience to the table:

- Dr. Markos Tibbo, Officer-In-Charge, FAO Sub-regional Office for GCC States & Yemen
- Ms. Latha Ekambaram, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member, SCOTT BADER UK
- Mr. Mohammad Raheem, Quality Compliance – Team Lead - Julphar Gulf Pharmaceutical Industries
- Ms. Caroline Kiunga, Community Relations Director (ISMEA Region), UPS

The speakers vividly depicted the vicious cycle of poverty, hunger and poor health. They emphasised the pivotal role of the food, healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors in overcoming these three stumbling blocks lying on the path to our thriving future. The event concluded with a ceremony of thanking the host, supporting entities, eminent speakers and new corporate members. They were all felicitated and celebrated and the guests who made the event meaningful were thanked.





Arabia CSR Forum 10th Cycle – Inviting your invaluable Registration Now

Established in 2010, the Arabia CSR Forum is a prestigious biennial gathering that unites experts, visionaries, and policymakers. This influential platform fosters discussions on global issues through captivating speeches, thought-provoking panels, and interactive Q&A sessions. As the largest regional event of its kind in the Arab world, it provides exceptional networking and knowledge exchange opportunities in CSR and sustainability. The forum is a vital space for meaningful conversations, addressing pressing concerns and shaping a better future.

Celebrating a significant milestone, the Arabia CSR Forum is entering its remarkable 10th Cycle this year. With the theme of "Unlocking Sustainable Transformation: Breaking Barriers, Creating Solutions," this edition promises to delve deep into innovative approaches that shatter limitations and pave the way for lasting change.

Mark your calendars for the highly anticipated two-day forum taking place on **3rd & 4th October**. Delving into topics such as finance, technology, entrepreneurship, environment, society and partnerships, this intriguing gathering will feature distinguished speakers who will scrupulously address the overarching theme. Engaging in these dynamic discussions will equip professionals with the tools and knowledge needed to swiftly propel our economies and countries towards a thriving future.

To register or learn more, kindly visit our website: <https://arabiacsrnetwork.com/forum/>

Member News

World's Most Remote Robot Automates Amazon Reforestation Project

A pilot project between ABB Robotics and non-profit organisation Jungle-keepers is demonstrating the role Cloud technology can play in making reforestation faster, more efficient and scalable.

ABB Robotics is supporting Jungle-keepers in their mission to protect 55,000 acres of the Amazon rainforest. In a first-of-its-kind demonstration, ABB's cobot (collaborative robot) "YuMi" is automating planting tasks in a jungle laboratory. Through cloud technology, ABB experts simulate, refine and deploy the programming required for YuMi's tasks in the jungle from 12,000 km away in Sweden – enabling the world's most remote robot.

The cobot has been installed to automate essential tasks in the seed planting process, usually an entirely manual effort. It digs a hole in the soil, drops the seed in, compacts the soil on top and marks it with a colour-coded tag. YuMi enables Jungle-keepers to replant an area the size of two soccer fields every day. By automating this task, Jungle-keepers' volunteers are able to focus their valuable time and resources on patrolling the area to deter illegal loggers, educating locals on the preservation of the rainforest and planting mature saplings.

Follow the complete story here: <https://shorturl.at/jAQZ7>

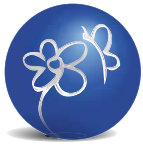
Tristar Eships and MTM establish Tristar-MTM Ship Management

Tristar Eships and MTM Ship Management have joined forces to create Tristar-MTM Ship Management Pte Ltd. The new venture aims to enhance value retention for ship owners and investors globally, with a particular focus on the GCC and Africa regions.

Tristar-MTM Ship Management specialises in managing vessels from the Tristar Eships fleet and plans to expand its services to include third-party tonnage in the future. Leveraging MTM's extensive experience in handling chemical tankers and dry cargo vessels, it also offers comprehensive and customised management solutions for ship owners looking for tailored services for their vessels. Notably, Tristar Eships, a division of the Tristar Group based in Dubai, serves as the Maritime Logistics arm of the company. The Tristar Group is a fully integrated provider of energy logistics solutions, catering to the global downstream oil and gas industry.

Click here to read more: <https://shorturl.at/sKT68>





FEATURE ARTICLE

Beyond the Tap: Urban Planning Strategies for Ensuring Water Security

Summary of Niharika Labhsetwar Dube's Post

Water scarcity and conservation are widely discussed, with various technological interventions introduced. However, a successful resolution remains elusive due to our limited understanding. Water is not merely a resource, but a lifeline, a force of nature, an economic dependency, a unifying factor and a symbol of responsibility.

Urban water security varies based on territorial and agglomeration factors, categorised as imported urban water risk and external water footprint. Effective policy design requires consideration of management levels and the distribution of decision-making power.

Ensuring water security in urban areas is a crucial aspect of urban planning, especially considering the increasing challenges posed by population growth, climate change, and resource scarcity. Here are some strategies for urban planning to ensure water security:

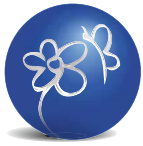


1. Diversification of Water Sources
2. Demand Management and Conservation
3. Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems
4. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
5. Integrated Water Management
6. Climate Resilience and Adaptation
7. Collaboration and Governance
8. Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation

By implementing these strategies, urban planners can contribute to long-term water security in cities, ensuring sustainable and resilient water management for current and future generations.

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Best Practices 2021 From The Archives

Ministry of Economy

1st Runner Up - Public Sector Category - Medium

Profile

The Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates was established in 1971 when the federation was formed. This government agency is a medium sized organisation with a mission to achieve national economic development and competitiveness; create an environment that encourages business growth by enacting and modernising legislations and foreign trade policies, expanding and promoting national exports, developing the country's tourism sector by improving its products and enhancing its quality, encouraging investment, regulating competition and SMEs sector, protecting consumer rights and intellectual properties, supporting the efforts of cooperative associations, diversifying economic activities and adopting smart apps.



As a country with a long-standing legacy of humanitarian work, charitable contributions and with a strong record of philanthropic work in many parts of the world, it was a natural progression that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) would be a focus area and a strategy for creating a regulatory framework for the same would be developed by the Ministry as the leading agency of the government. The National Fund for Corporate Social Responsibility was established through Cabinet Resolution No. 2 of 2018. The following year, a Smart Platform for Corporate Social Responsibility was launched in the presence of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The platform aims to engage all state owned commercial enterprises to practice CSR as a traditional mandate, as well as private sector companies, thus creating a unique and effective public private partnership.

Within the scope of the Fund, a National Index of Corporate Social Responsibility was developed with the aim of assessing CSR practices in the United Arab Emirates in relation to established international standards. The National CSR Fund Smart Platform and National CSR Index are the twin components of a first of its kind initiative to harness public and private CSR contributions on to a common platform and formally acknowledge the impacts of the same via a rating mechanism following international standards and benchmarks. The challenges faced were addressed by launching the CSR Index and the CSR Passport, both of which aim to motivate and inspire the uptake of CSR and sustainability amongst entities in the UAE. Additionally, by providing wide scale coverage and benefits thereof on the brand and building the reputation of these entities has gone a long way in putting CSR on the high level agenda of public and private sector establishments. Finally, the Fund encapsulates the deep commitment of the UAE to align with global sustainable development goals and create real impact on the ground locally.

Conclusion & Lessons Learnt

Before and during the development of the CSR initiative, the Ministry faced several challenges, the most prominent being the following:

- Low level of CSR awareness among a large number of companies, necessitating the need for effective incentives to encourage companies to participate.
- Company initiatives were mostly undeveloped or unregulated; therefore initiatives with a clear organisational framework and more strategic and impactful were required to be developed.
- Absence of any proper guidance regarding the sectors relying on social intervention by institutions, with initiatives being limited to CSR projects in specific areas (education, health, environment), which may not create tangible results for these sectors or the beneficiaries.
- Lack of incentives from the state to encourage the development of corporate social responsibility, such as reduced taxation or loans with reduced interest rates for socially responsible organisations, and the kind.

